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REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 29 and 30 have been amended to more clearly recite the limitations of the claims, and not for the purposes of overcoming any prior art. Re-consideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and below remarks is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-30 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 12-16 of U.S. Patent 6,633,880 B1.

Applicants have overcome this ground of rejection by more clearly reciting the step of "...indexing the reference table using one of the sets of bits in the key to obtain a reference table entry, wherein at least a subset of bits of the reference table entry is processed as either transition bits or valid bits in accordance with the selectable parameter of an associated data structure entry to provide a processed reference table entry..." No such limitation is found in the claims of the patent cited by the Examiner. A similar limitation is found in claim 11 ("the reference table entries being processed as transition bits or valid bits according to a value of a selectable parameter of an associated data structure entry...") and independent claim 22 ("wherein at least a subset of bits of the reference table entry is processed as either transition bits or valid bits in accordance with the selectable parameter of an associated entry in the data structure").

Accordingly, for at least the reason that the claims of the current invention are patentably distinct over the cited patent, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 4 and 9 were rejected to for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, in particular certain antecedent basis was not established. Applicant has amended

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the claims to overcome this ground of rejection, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Peters et al. (hereinafter "Peters", U.S. Patent 6,292,795).

Peters describes, in the abstract "...A computer filing system includes a data access and allocation mechanism including a directory and a plurality of indexed data files or hash tables. The directory is preferably a radix tree including directory entries which contain pointers to respective ones of the hash tables...."

Although Peters describes and suggests a system that uses hash tables, it neither describes nor suggests "...indexing the reference table using one of the sets of bits in the key to obtain a reference table entry, wherein at least a subset of bits of the reference table entry is processed as either transition bits or valid bits in accordance with the selectable parameter of an associated data structure entry ..." as recited in the claims of the present invention.

Although the Examiner states, at page 6 that Peters teaches the step of "wherein the reference table includes at least one of a valid reference table and a transition reference table..." at "(Peters, col. 3, line 1 – col. 4, line 65), Applicants note that this portion of the specification merely discusses the benefits of hash tables.

Accordingly, for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or describe every limitation of independent claims 1, 11 and 22, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is overcome and should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 1-9, 12-21 and 23-30 serve to add further

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patentable limitations to their parent independent claims, but are allowable for at least the same reason as their parent claims.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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